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GOVERNOR

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**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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John R. Cooper  
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR

July 18, 2011

The Honorable Max A. Townson  
Mayor of Cullman  
Post Office Box 278  
Cullman, Alabama 35056

**Subject: Annual Inspection Report**  
**Folsom Field**


Dear Mayor Townson:

An inspection of the Folsom Field Municipal Airport was conducted by personnel of the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on July 12, 2011. The purpose of the inspection was to update the information currently on file regarding the airport and to ascertain compliance with the rules and regulations of the Alabama Department of Transportation governing licensed public-use airports within the State of Alabama.

Attached you will find a copy of the Annual Inspection Report for the Folsom Field Airport. As noted in the report, the airport does not meet all the requirements for the issuance of an operating license. The operating license for the airport is being withheld pending the correction of the license requirements listed in the Annual Inspection Report. The Code of Alabama 23-1-375 prohibits the operation of an airport for which a license has not been issued.

If you should have any questions concerning the inspection or corrective actions, please do not hesitate to contact the Aeronautics Bureau at (334) 242-6820.

Sincerely,

  
John C. Eagerton IV, D.P.A.  
Chief, Aeronautics Bureau

Copy: Mr. Bob Burns, Airport Manager  
Mr. Rans Black, FAA ADO  
Ms. Natalie Hobbs, Goodwyn, Mills & Cawood

# ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT

July 12, 2011



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



FOLSOM FIELD  
CULLMAN, ALABAMA

**ANNUAL INSPECTION REPORT  
FOLSOM FIELD  
CULLMAN, ALABAMA**

July 12, 2011

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# Annual Inspection Report Folsom Field Cullman, Alabama

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## Introduction

Code of Alabama 23-1-357(c). The department may perform such acts, issue and amend such orders and make, promulgate, or amend general or special rules, regulations, and procedures and establish minimum standards, consistent with the provisions of this article as it shall deem necessary to carry out the provisions of this article and to perform its duties hereunder, all commensurate with and for the purpose of protecting and insuring the general public interest, health, welfare, and safety. (Act 2000-220, 10.)

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Alabama 23-1-357(c) an inspection of the Folsom Field Airport was conducted by Mr. Robert K. Heartsill of the Alabama Department of Transportation Aeronautics Bureau on July 12, 2011.

The corrective actions that may be prescribed in this inspection report do not relieve the airport owner from compliance with any other Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations that may be applicable. It is the responsibility of the airport owner to be aware of and obey all Federal, State or local laws, ordinances or regulations that may have a bearing on the corrective actions that may be specified in this report.

## Inspection Methodology

The inspection of the required State Approach/Departure Path and Federal Runway Protection Zones was accomplished by the use of approved engineering methods and equipment. The angles, locations and heights of trees or other objects within these areas were derived by the use of a Theodolite and electronic distance measuring device.

All other areas of the inspection were conducted visually and photographed for reference purposes.

The FAA Airport Design Standards referred to in this report were taken from the Airport Layout Drawing (ALD) dated July 2006.

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## License Status

**Code of Alabama 23-1-375(a).** ...a person or municipality may not operate an airport, restricted landing area, or other air navigation facility without a license issued by the department.

Based upon the findings of the inspection conducted on July 12, 2011 it was determined that the airport does not meet the requirements for the issuance of an operating license. The operating license is being withheld pending the correction of the license violation noted in this report.

The inspection was conducted on the airport under the provisions of the Administrative Code for the following areas:

### **1. Approach and Departure Paths** **Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(1)** (See Appendix 1)

#### State Licensing Standards

- ➔ For all hard surface runways the approach and departure path begins 200 feet from the runway end (runway threshold).
- ➔ The approach and departure path for all runways is centered along the extended runway centerline and extends for 1000 feet.
- ➔ The approach and departure path for all runways slopes up at a ratio of 20:1.
- ➔ All penetrations of the approach and departure paths, whether natural or manmade, constitute an obstruction to navigation and must be removed.
- ➔ The land beneath the approach and departure path must be controlled by the airport owner. This is accomplished by ownership of the property in fee simple or by written perpetual agreement with the owner of the land.

#### Inspection Results

- ➔ Runway 2 – The approach to Runway 2 is unobstructed and meets licensing requirements.
- ➔ **Violation** Runway 20 – The approach to Runway 20 is obstructed by a line of trees. The trees are located approximately 400 feet from the runway end and extend from the centerline west across the approach. The trees reduce the required 20:1 slope to 17:1.



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## Required Action

- ➔ The trees must be removed to meet licensing requirements. The entire line of trees should be removed from within airport property and the area maintained in mowable condition.

**Photo 1**



Approach to Runway 2

**Photo 2**



Approach to Runway 20

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**2. Primary Surface  
Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(2)**

**State Licensing Standards**

- ➔ Primary Surface (See Appendix 1): The primary surface is 250 feet wide, centered on the runway centerline and extends 200 feet past the end of the marked runway. The primary surface is required to be free of all obstructions, manmade or natural. The only allowable objects are runway lights, guidance signs, or navigation equipment that by function is required to be within the primary surface boundaries.

**Inspection Results**

- ➔ The Primary Surface was inspected and found to meet state licensing requirements.

**3. Runway Safety Area  
Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(3)**

**State Licensing Standards**

- ➔ Runway Safety Area (Appendix 1): All runways are required to maintain an obstruction free area adjacent to each runway. This area is 120 feet wide, centered on the runway centerline, and extends for a distance of 200 feet past the runway end. The area must be compacted and graded smooth with no ruts, humps, depressions or other potentially hazardous surface variations. The slope along the longitudinal centerline shall not exceed a rise or fall of three percent in elevation relative to the runway end elevation. The lip from the top of the pavement to the grade adjacent to the runway should not exceed 3 inches.

**Inspection Results**

- ➔ The Runway Safety Area was found to meet State licensing requirements.

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**4. Airport Markings  
Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(4)**

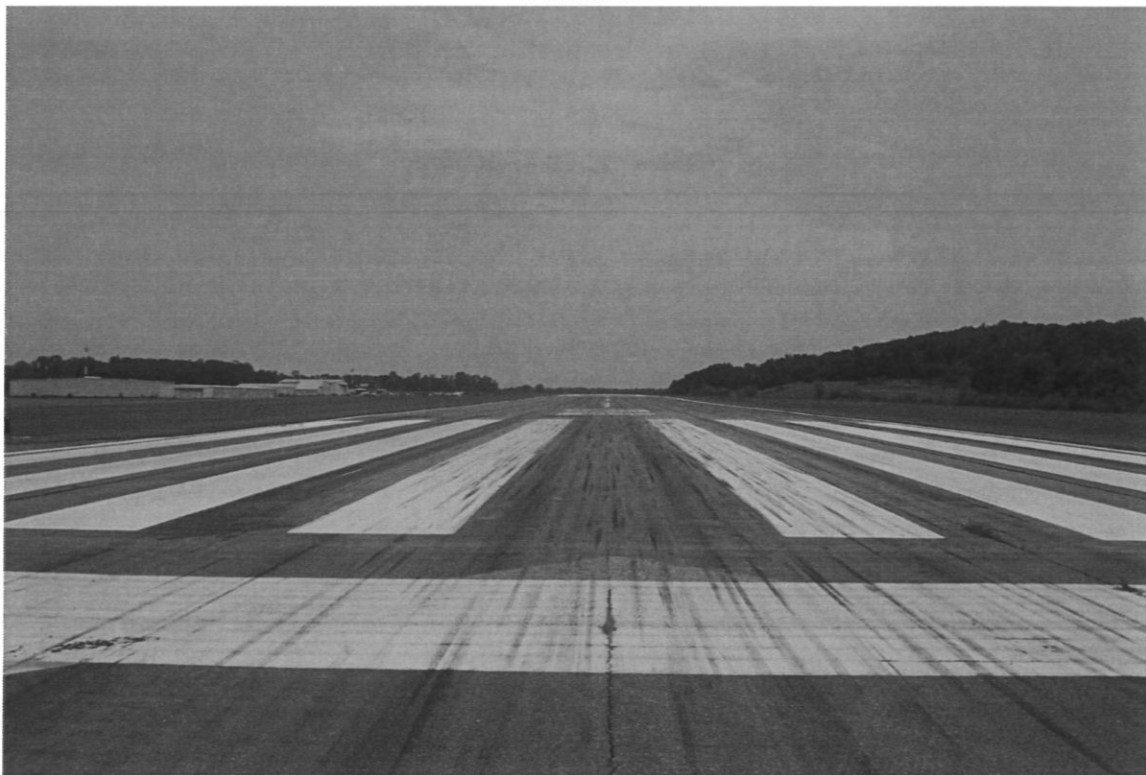
**State Licensing Standards**

- ➔ Airport Markings: All runways are required to be marked in a manner identifying the boundaries of the landing areas. The runway markings must be painted white and be maintained in a legible condition.

**Inspection Results**

- ➔ The airport markings are in GOOD condition.

**Photo 3**



Runway Identifier markings of Runway 2



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**Photo 4**



Runway Identifier markings of Runway 20

**5. Wind Direction Indicator  
Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(5)**

**State Licensing Standards**

- ➔ Wind Direction Indicators: All airports are required to have an operational wind direction indicator. It must be installed in a highly visible area and free from obstructions to ensure true wind direction and velocity. Night operations require the indicator be lighted.

**Inspection Results**

- ➔ The wind direction indicator (windsock) was inspected and found to be operational.

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**Photo 5**



Windsock and segmented circle

**6. Airport Lighting  
Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(6)**

**State Licensing Standards**

- ➔ Airport Lighting: Runway lights and a lighted wind direction indicator are required for night operations. A rotating beacon is suggested. All runway, threshold, and taxiway lighting shall be maintained in operational condition and shall not be obscured by natural growth such as grass and/or weeds.

**Inspection Results**

- ➔ The airport lighting system was inspected and found to be operational.

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## 7. Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(7)

### State Licensing Standards:

- ➔ Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions: All airport pavement surfaces associated with aircraft operations must be kept smooth and free of any defect or obstruction that could damage an aircraft. The lip of the airport pavement surfaces must not exceed three (3) inches in elevation from the top of the pavement to the shoulder. The drop should only be enough to allow sufficient drainage and not pose a control problem for aircraft exiting the runway. The aircraft parking apron is for the operation and parking of aircraft only and should be smooth and free of obstructions or defects that could cause damage to aircraft during operations.

### Inspection Results

- ➔ The overall condition of the airport pavement surfaces was found to be in good condition.

### Maintenance

- ➔ Vegetation should be eradicated and the cracks cleaned and sealed from the runway within the aiming bars.
- ➔ There are two areas in the taxiway to Runway 2 that have an alligator crack condition. This condition is indicative of imminent pavement failure.
- ➔ The area where the center taxi connector to the runway intersects the taxiways and apron has a large area of failed pavement.
- ➔ The taxiway to Runway 20 has an area of pavement over a drainage structure that is uneven and has loose aggregate.
- ➔ The taxiway to Runway 20 has a 3 foot wide area along the west edge of the taxiway 300 to 330 feet from the north taxi connector that has deteriorated and broken.

### Required Action

- ➔ The consulting engineers for the airport should evaluate these pavement areas and develop plans to correct these pavement conditions.



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**Photo 6**



Vegetation in cracks within the aiming bars

**Photo 7**



Area of alligator cracking in taxiway to Runway 2

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**Photo 8**



Area of alligator cracking in radius of curve in taxiway to Runway 2

**Photo 9**



Area of failed pavement at taxiway and ramp intersection



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Photo 10



Area of pavement damage on taxiway to Runway 20

## 8. Fueling Area Requirements Administrative Code 450-9-1-.12(8)

### State Licensing Standards

- Signs should be posted prohibiting open flames or smoking in fueling areas. The fueling facility must be labeled indicating the type fuel being dispensed.
- Grounding cables must be available.
- A fire extinguisher approved for the purpose of extinguishing petroleum product fires available during all fueling operations.
- Serviceable hoses and connections that would preclude a rupture or leaking of fuel.

### Inspection Results

- The fueling area meets the requirements established by the Alabama Department of Transportation. However, the State of Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries may have additional requirements for fueling systems that were not considered during this inspection.

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Photo 11



Fueling Area

## 9. Prohibited Activities Administrative Code 450-9-1-.16

### State Licensing Standards

- ➔ Prohibited Activities: The use of any portion of the aircraft operations area, or airport property within the boundaries of the imaginary surfaces of a licensed airport for any purpose other than the operation of aircraft shall be deemed a non-aeronautical activity and is prohibited.

### Inspection Results

- ➔ No prohibited activities were observed during the inspection.

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**Summary**

The table below summarizes items noted in this report.

**INSPECTION SUMMARY**

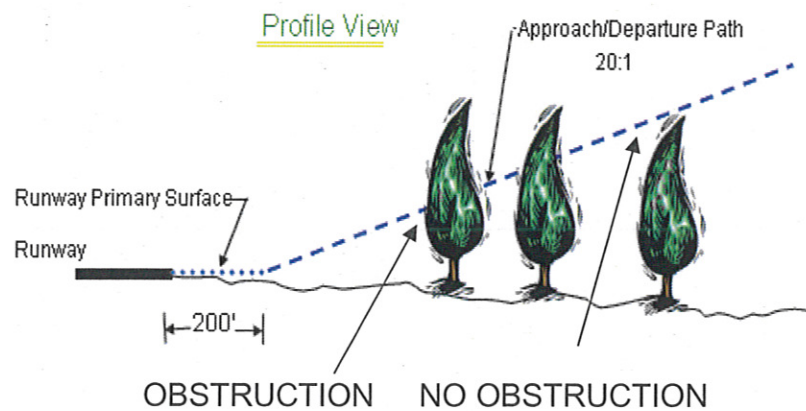
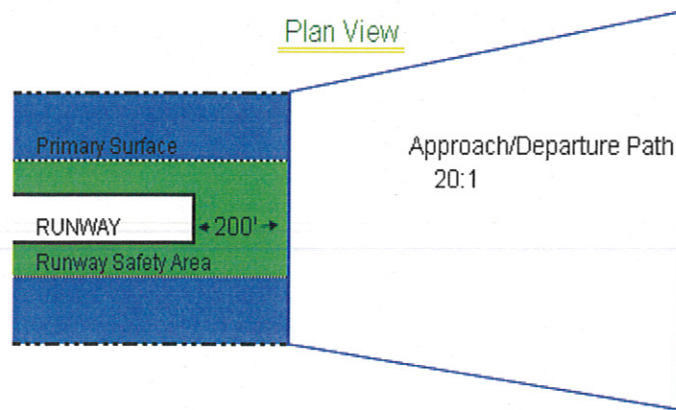
<b>Inspection Area</b>	<b>Violation/Maintenance</b>	<b>Corrective Action</b>
Approach and Departure Path	Violation – Runway 20	Remove obstructions to the 20:1 slope
Runway, Taxiway and Apron Conditions	Maintenance	Airport consultant to develop plans to correct pavement deficiencies

Please contact the Aeronautics Bureau of the Alabama Department of Transportation at (334) 242-6820 with questions concerning the Annual Inspection Report.

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Approach and Departure Path Dimensions			
Inner Width	Outer Width	Length	Acreage
250 Feet	450 Feet	1,000 Feet	8.04 Acres
Primary Surface Dimensions			
250 Feet Wide Centered Along Runway Centerline			
Extending 200 Feet Past the Runway End			
Runway Safety Area Dimensions			
120 Feet Wide Centered Along Runway Centerline			
Extending 200 Feet Past the Runway End			



## APPENDIX 1



July 12, 2011

